(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom during the above period, year-wise;

(c) whether there has been a decline in the foreign exchange earning on this world;

(d) whether certain varieties of rice were also imported by the country during the above period;

(e) if so, the year-wise details thereof; and

(f) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) The quantity and value of Basmati and Non-Basmati Rice exported during the last three years are as follows:—

Quantity: Lakh MTs.

Value: Rs. Crores.

Year	Basmati Rice		Non-Basmati Rice	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1994–95	4.42	865.32	4.48	340.47
1995–96	3.73	850.67	45.41	3717.41
1996–97	4.89	1197.75	19.85	1952.83
1997–98 (Apr.–Aug. '98)	2.19	604.86	6.97	560.24
1996–97 (Apr.–Aug. '97)	2.19	486.18	9.36	885.39

(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

(d) to (f) The quantity and value of rice imported during the last three years are as follows:—

Quantity: MTs.

Value: Rs. Lakhs

Year	Quantity	Value
1994–95	6990	855.31
1995–96	80	9.69
1996–97	—	—
1997–98 (April-Aug., '97)	18	2.79

(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

Import of common/coarse varieties of rice with 50% or more broken has been permitted freely after review of the emerging trends in supply and stock of rice by the Government with effect from 27.05.1997.

Tobacco Board

598. SHRI A.C. JOSE : Will the Minster of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have agreed to give more powers to the Tobacco Board to check the sales of tobacco outside the auctions to ensure better prices for the growers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Laws, Rules and Regulations administered by this Ministry are reviewed to assess their efficacy and effectiveness in attaining the desired objectives. As and when the situation so warrants, suitable amendments are made to enhance their effectiveness.

Export Performance

599. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the export performance of Export Processing Zones and Export Processing Units during the Seventh and Eighth Plan, Unit-wise;

(b) the details of the new units joined and which have withdrawn upto March, 1997; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) Exports by units in Export Processing Zones during the Seventh and Eighth Five Year Plans were of the order of Rs. 2266.02 crores and Rs. 13,563.88 crores, respectively. As on 31.3.1997, 513 units were in operation in the EPZs while 160 units had debonded/withdrawn from the scheme. The policy itself provides for debonding of unit on their inability to achieve export obligation prescribed or other requirements of the scheme, due to various factors, including obsolescence of technology, failure of marketing arrangements, withdrawal of foreign collaborators, financial and managerial problems, recession in the international market etc.

Upgradation of PSUs

600. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Public Sector Undertakings have approached the Competent Authority for upgradation of their PUs as per the guidelines with necessary justification during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the name of Public Sector Undertakings upgraded during the last three years and proposals pending as on March 31, 1997 with the decision making authority alongwith reasons for pendency;

(d) whether the Government propose to streamline the operation with clarity, efficiency and transparency in the decision making process; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) It is the administrative Ministries concerned with the PSUs who approach the competent authority for upgradation of PSUs under their administrative control. During the last 3 years proposals relating to upgradation of 7 PSUs have been received in the Deptt. of Public Enterprises which is the nodel Department for this purpose. The details are given in the Statement.

(c) Goa Shipyard Limited was upgraded during the period. A proposal relating to upgradation of the Dredging Corporation of India Ltd. was pending with the decision making authority as on 31.3.97. This has been disposed of in July, 97.

(d) and (e) A well defined and established process already exists for this purpose.

Statement

Names of PSUs in respect of which proposals for ungradations were received during the last three years.

1.	National Fertilizers Limited
2.	Goa Shipyard Limited
3.	Mazagon Dock Limited
4.	Dredging Corporation of India Limited
5.	India Tourism Development Corporation Limited
6.	Central Cottage Industries Corpn. of India
7.	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limit

Foreign Visit of Chief Minister, Karnataka

601. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the countries visited by Ministers of Karnataka including the Chief Minister from January, 1996 to June, 1997;

(b) the number of times each Minister had gone abroad;

(c) the details of foreign exchange released for the purpose by the Union Government during the above period;

(d) the amount released by the Union Government by way of foreign exchange for medical treatment of the Ministers of Karnataka including the Chief Minister during the above period; and

(e) the number of foreign tours conducted by the Ministers of Karnataka during the above period without the permission of the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Outstanding Loans Against State Governments

602. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to sate:

(a) whether the amount payable to various nationalised banks have been outstanding against some State Governments;